

THE MAIZE TRUST

NORMS, PROCEDURES AND CONDITIONS FOR MYCOTOXIN RESEARCH FUNDING

Norms and Procedures

1. Applications in electronic format must reach the Trust on or before 30 April.
2. The Trust will only consider proposals in the prescribed format that are submitted before or on the date as stipulated.
3. All research proposals will be sent for review to South African and international experts (*applicants are requested to submit the names and contact details of appropriate experts*).
4. The reports of the reviewers will be assessed by the Mycotoxin Research Review Panel (MRRP) comprising of South African experts. The MRRP will evaluate and prioritise the various proposals based on the reviewers' feedback.
5. The MRRP will inform the Trustees of their recommendations during November. The Trust's Administrators will inform the researchers and the research administration offices of the various institutions about the Trust's decisions thereafter.
6. The Trust strongly prefers and wishes to promote meaningful collaborative research concerning mycotoxins. However, it is accepted that in some instances researchers may wish to pursue their own research interests. Researchers are further encouraged to actively pursue the possibility of co-funding within their own institutions or from other local and international funding agencies, as the Maize Trust does not have unlimited funds.
7. Although each application will be considered on merit, the Trustees will, *inter alia*, take the following into consideration:
 - the requirements of the South African maize industry;
 - the availability of funds and the cost factor of the specific application;
 - the benefit that an application may have for the maize industry as a whole;
 - any other matters that the Trustees may deem appropriate.
8. The Trustees may, in their discretion, prioritise the different applications and reject the funding of any capital items or overseas travelling costs that may be included in an application. The Trust also reserves the right to request more detailed information where deemed necessary.
9. Applicants are allowed to include depreciation of assets in their applications, but have to submit full details thereof.
10. Each project approved for funding by the Trust will be evaluated and monitored periodically. The Trust explicitly reserves the right to request interim progress reports and to visit any premises of the applicant (or the project) at any given time, if deemed necessary, either by the Trustees themselves, or by the Administrators of the Trust, or by agents of the Trust.
11. When an application is approved for funding, the Trust may impose such conditions or lay down such rules relating to the funding as the Trustees in their discretion might deem necessary for that particular project, in addition to the Trust's standard conditions of funding, as set out hereunder.

Standard Conditions of funding

- (1) If an application for funding is approved by the Maize Trust, payment to that beneficiary will be made as follows:
60% of the funded amount upon approval by the Trust
40% of the funding once the Trust is satisfied with the final progress report.
- (2) Funding by the Trust is regarded as donations and Value Added Tax (VAT) is therefore calculated at a zero rate, except where otherwise stated by the Trust. Should the funding, however, be found to be subject to VAT at another rate, the funding amount will be deemed to be inclusive of VAT.
- (3) Except where the Trustees decide otherwise, it is an explicit proviso in every financial distribution by the Trust in respect of research, that the results of the research project must be public knowledge. The researcher (applicant) has to agree to this notwithstanding any trade or intellectual property rights that may exist with regard to such research or its results.
- (4) All financial contributions by the Trust is to be acknowledged in all publications and in the results of all projects that are funded by the Trust.
- (5) A progress report has to be submitted by all beneficiaries on or before the date stipulated by the Trust, but additional reports could be requested by the Trust at any time during the duration of the funding period. Any payment by the Trust to the beneficiary, based on a progress report, will be made once the Trustees have considered and declared themselves satisfied with that report.
The progress reports should contain at least the following information:
 - (a) *Identification of the project and the project leader.*
 - (b) *The actions that have been taken with regard to the project.*
 - (c) *The progress that has been made with the project.*
 - (d) *The results that have been achieved.*
 - (e) *Any problems that have been encountered with the project.*
 - (f) *Milestones that have not been achieved and the reasons for that.*
 - (g) *An assessment of the adequacy of the funding to complete the project.*
 - (h) *The estimated duration of the project until completion.*
 - (i) *A comprehensive explanation of all the results of the project.*
 - (j) *A detailed budget and expenditure statement of the allocation of the funds that were granted by the Trust for the project, which budget and statement have to be certified by a qualified auditor or the financial department of the research institution concerned.*
 - (k) *The manner envisaged in which the project and its results will be published in scientific journals and distributed to the maize industry.*
 - (l) *The possible utilisation of the project results within the SA maize industry.*
- (6) The Trustees will in their own discretion monitor projects that are funded and may use the services of technical or research advisers, or other experts, to assist in the consideration and monitoring of such projects.
- (9) If a funded project is terminated or delayed for whatsoever reason, or if there is a surplus of funds in relation to a project –
 - (a) the beneficiary must declare and repay the funding balance to the Trust;
 - (b) should the Trust find malice to be present, interest will be payable by the beneficiary from the date of payment by the Trust up to the date of repayment, at the interest rate stipulated by the High Court of South Africa for outstanding debts.

Mission of the Maize Trust Mycotoxin Research Program

World-class mycotoxin research to be undertaken at South African universities and research institutions in order to ensure that **safe maize** is provided to the **food and animal feed** industries, **consumers** and **export markets**.

Strategic Objectives for Mycotoxin Research

- To establish the **magnitude of mycotoxin contamination** of maize during the stages of its production, storage, and processing in South Africa
- To regularly **monitor the occurrence** of the fumonisins, aflatoxins, zearalenone, and trichothecenes (DON and NIV) in locally produced and imported maize
- To determine the **factors which contribute** to mycotoxin contamination during the production (pre-harvest), storage (post-harvest) and processing of maize
- To develop practical, affordable and environmentally sound **methods to manage** toxigenic fungi in maize, with particular emphasis on introducing resistance in local maize cultivars
- To support the development of sound mycotoxin **risk management practices in the maize supply chain** to ensure the delivery of safe products to the consumer

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